

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

\* \* \*

GRACE ALBANESE,

Plaintiff,

v.

LAS VEGAS POLICE DEPARTMENT,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:17-cv-01973-RFB-PAL

**REPORT OF FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATION**

(IFP Application – ECF No. 1)

This matter is before the court on Plaintiff Grace Albanese’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and LSR 1-1 of the Local Rules of Practice. This Application is referred to the undersigned pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A) and (B) and LR IB 1-3 and 1-4 of the Local Rules of Practice.

**I. IN FORMA PAUPERIS APPLICATION**

Plaintiff is proceeding in this action *pro se*, which means that she is not represented by an attorney. *See* LSR 2-1. She has requested authority pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”), meaning without prepaying the filing fees, and submitted a proposed complaint. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) and the Judicial Conference Schedule of Fees, a filing fee and administrative fee totaling \$400 is required to commence a civil action in a federal district court. The court may authorize a person to commence an action without the prepayment of fees and costs if the person files an IFP application including an affidavit stating that he or she is unable to pay the initial fees. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1); LSR 1-1. However, the court must apply “even-handed care” to ensure that “federal funds are not squandered to underwrite, at public expense, either frivolous claims” or the colorable claims of a plaintiff “who is financially able, in whole or in material part, to pull his own oar.” *Temple v. Ellerthorpe*, 586 F. Supp. 848, 850 (D.R.I. 1984) (collecting cases). A “district court may deny leave to proceed in forma pauperis at the outset if it

appears from the face of the proposed complaint that the action is frivolous or without merit.” *Minetti v. Port of Seattle*, 152 F.3d 1113, 1115 (9th Cir. 1998) (quoting *Tripati v. First Nat’l Bank & Trust*, 821 F.2d 1368, 1370 (9th Cir. 1987)). A complaint that “merely repeats pending or previously litigated claims” is frivolous. *See, e.g., Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1105 n.2 (9th Cir. 1995) (citation omitted); *see also Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 30 (1992); *Martinez v. Bureau of Immigration & Customs Enf’t*, 316 F. App’x 640, 641 (9th Cir. 2009).

Since March 2016, Ms. Albanese has filed 45 federal cases in the District of Nevada, 42 of which are currently ongoing and 13 of which are pending before the undersigned magistrate judge.<sup>1</sup> In all, she has sued the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (“LVMPD”) 30 times in just over a year. Most of Albanese’s actions assert the same or very similar allegations: various persons stalk or spy on Albanese in her bedroom and when she travels around Las Vegas, sometimes using

---

<sup>1</sup> *See Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:16-cv-00529-KJD-NJK; *Albanese v. Transp. Security Admin.*, 2:16-cv-00530-GMN-CWH; *Albanese v. Homeland Security*, 2:16-cv-00531-RFB-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:16-cv-00532-RFB-GWF; *Albanese v. Regional Transp. Comm’n of So. Nev.*, 2:16-cv-01882-APG-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-00577-GMN-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01087-GMN-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01284-MMD-NJK; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01285-JCM-VCF, *appeal docketed*, No. 17-16127 (9th Cir. May 31, 2017); *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01286-JAD-PAL; *Albanese v. Dep’t of Homeland Security*, 2:17-cv-01287-JCM-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01520-JAD-CWH; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01544-RFB-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01573-JCM-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01574-RFB-PAL; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01599-JAD-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01600-JAD-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01613-APG-PAL; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01614-JAD-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01633-JAD-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01634-RFB-CWH; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01635-JAD-CWH; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01640-MMD-VCF; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01641-JAD-GWF; *Albanese v. Homeland Security*, 2:17-cv-01642-RFB-GWF; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01662-JAD-NJK; *Albanese v. Homeland Security*, 2:17-cv-01663-JCM-NJK; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01664-JCM-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01735-JCM-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01780-JCM-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01782-JCM-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01795-JAD-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01807-JCM-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01808-APG-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01832-KJD-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01852-JCM-GWF; *Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01871-JAD-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01872-RFB-VCF; *Albanese v. Homeland Security*, 2:17-cv-01874-RFB-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01896-JCM-VCF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01903-MMD-GWF; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01904-JCM-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01972-JAD-NJK; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01973-RFB-PAL; *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep’t*, 2:17-cv-01974-JAD-PAL.

1 listening devices or hacking into her phone, but federal and state law enforcement officers ignore  
 2 her requests for help and refuse to investigate or arrest the wrongdoers. She asserts similar legal  
 3 claims in all her cases pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983: violations of her due process, equal protection,  
 4 and free speech rights, obstruction of justice, defamation, public corruption, and conspiracy.

5 Ms. Albanese has been warned by the undersigned as well as Magistrate Judge Cam  
 6 Ferenbach that duplicative lawsuits with virtually identical causes of action are subject to dismissal  
 7 under 28 U.S.C § 1915. *See Albanese v. Fed. Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01599-JAD-VCF,  
 8 June 19, 2017 Report & Recommendation (ECF No. 3); *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro Police*  
 9 *Dep't*, 2:17-cv-00577-GMN-PAL, June 30, 2017 Report & Recommendation (ECF No. 68).  
 10 Additionally, Judge Ferenbach has recommended that she be declared a vexatious litigant and be  
 11 prohibited from filing any complaint, petition, or other document without first obtaining leave  
 12 from the Chief Judge. His report and recommendation is currently pending before United States  
 13 District Court Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey.

14 Having reviewed her complaint in this case, the court finds that her claims are frivolous  
 15 and duplicative and will recommend denial of her IFP application and dismissal of the complaint.

## 16 **II. SCREENING THE COMPLAINT**

### 17 **A. Legal Standard**

18 Pursuant to § 1915(e), federal courts must screen all IFP complaints prior to a responsive  
 19 pleading. *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1129 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (§ 1915(e) applies to “all  
 20 in forma pauperis complaints”). Allegations in a *pro se* complaint are held to less stringent  
 21 standards than formal pleading drafted by lawyers. *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007);  
 22 *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 n.7 (9th Cir. 2010). However, *pro se* litigants “should not be  
 23 treated more favorably than parties with attorneys of record,” *Jacobsen v. Filler*, 790 F.2d 1362,  
 24 1364 (9th Cir. 1986); rather, they must follow the same rules of procedure that govern other  
 25 litigants. *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 54 (9th Cir. 1995).

26 Federal courts are required to dismiss an IFP action if the complaint fails to state a claim  
 27 upon which relief may be granted, is legally “frivolous or malicious,” or seeks monetary relief  
 28 from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). A complaint may be

1 characterized as malicious “when it is ‘filed with the intention or desire to harm another.’” *Knapp*  
 2 *v. Hogan*, 738 F.3d 1106, 1109 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting *Andrews v. King*, 398 F.3d 1113, 1121  
 3 (9th Cir. 2005)). Allegations are frivolous when they are “clearly baseless” or lack an arguable  
 4 basis in law and fact. *Denton*, 504 U.S. at 32; *see also Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325  
 5 (1989). Frivolous claims include those based on legal conclusions that are untenable (*e.g.*, claims  
 6 against defendants who are immune from suit or claims of infringement of a legal interest that  
 7 clearly does not exist), as well as claims based on fanciful factual allegations (*e.g.*, fantastic or  
 8 delusional scenarios). *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 327–28; *McKeever v. Block*, 932 F.2d 795, 798 (9th  
 9 Cir. 1991); *Andrews*, 398 F.3d at 1121. In determining whether a complaint is frivolous and  
 10 therefore warrants complete or partial dismissal, a court is not bound “to accept without question  
 11 the truth of the plaintiff’s allegations.” *Denton*, 504 U.S. at 32. A complaint may be dismissed as  
 12 frivolous if it “merely repeats pending or previously litigated claims.” *Cato*, 70 F.3d at 1105 n.2  
 13 (citation omitted); *see also Aziz v. Burrows*, 976 F.2d 1158, 1158 (8th Cir. 1992) (“district courts  
 14 may dismiss a duplicative complaint raising issues directly related to issues in another pending  
 15 action brought by the same party”); *Adams v. Cal. Dep’t of Health Servs.*, 487 F.3d 684, 688 (9th  
 16 Cir. 2007) (“Plaintiffs generally have no right to maintain two separate actions involving the same  
 17 subject matter at the same time in the same court and against the same defendant.”), *overruled in*  
 18 *part on other grounds by Taylor v. Sturgell*, 553 U.S. 880 (2008); *McWilliams v. State of Colorado*,  
 19 121 F.3d 573, 574 (11th Cir. 1997) (holding that repetitious action may be dismissed as frivolous  
 20 or malicious).

#### 21 **B. Plaintiff’s Duplicative Factual Allegations and Claims for Relief**

22 The court finds that the complaint in this case is frivolous and duplicative because it merely  
 23 repeats claims pending in other cases. Here, Albanese is suing LVMPD under 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
 24 for obstruction of justice and public corruption. The complaint alleges that on July 19, 2017  
 25 “911/311 dispatchers are complaining about” Albanese for calling them to report that people are  
 26 stalking her where she is panhandling. Compl. (ECF No. 1-1) at 2. Ms. Albanese claims the  
 27 stalking incidents occurred because someone in law enforcement or the LVMPD gave her  
 28 “whereabouts to drug dealers” but did “not tell 911 about it.” *Id.* She alleges that LVMPD officers

1 harassed her when she asked which sergeants were assigned to her call and “wouldn’t even help  
2 me at all.” *Id.* at 3.

3 In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-00577-GMN-PAL, she  
4 alleged that LVMPD and its employees violated her equal protection and due process rights and  
5 obstructed justice by failing to respond to her call for help and refusing to take her voluntary  
6 statement that a neighbor was stalking her. *Id.*, Am. Compl. (ECF No. 15). Albanese alleged she  
7 called LVMPD to report that her neighbor was stalking her. A police sergeant told Ms. Albanese  
8 she was not stalked and he would not respond or allow other LVMPD officers to respond. She  
9 further alleged that an LVMPD employee refused to allow Ms. Albanese to document a crime of  
10 stalking making a voluntary statement. The court expressly found that these allegations failed to  
11 state actionable claims. *Id.*, June 30, 2017 Report & Recommendation (ECF No. 68).

12 In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-01544-RFB-PAL, she  
13 alleges that LVMPD violated her equal protection right and obstructed justice because the police  
14 knew she was being stalked but would not take action:

15 Turns out not only was the stalker stalking me but he was trespassing [*sic*] as well  
16 and Officer Folger told me he would not tell me he was trespassing [*sic*].... The  
17 officer told me I was not being stalked. I believe the Las Vegas Police knew I was  
to be stalked by the homeless male and the police won’t acknowledge that fact.

18 *Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1).

19 In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-01574-RFB-PAL, she  
20 alleges that LVMPD violated her equal protection right and obstructed justice because an operator  
21 refused to dispatch an officer to investigate individuals who were stalking and spying on her:

22 [W]hen she asked me why I was whispering and I told her because my neighbors  
23 are spying/observing me.... Operators Collins 14128 was obstructing justice  
24 because she did not understand that I have to whisper when I call 311 and report  
laundry room vagrants. So she refused to allow officers to investigate until they  
talked to me about my mental state.

25 *Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1).

26 In *Albanese v. Federal Bureau of Investigations*, 2:17-cv-01635-JAD-CWH, Albanese  
27 sued the FBI for violation of her civil rights under § 1983 for denying her due process and equal  
28 protection, and obstruction of justice. *Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1). Her complaint alleges:

The F.B.I. refuse to help me when they know I'm being followed by the same man who is being supported and funded by people who want me to move. The F.B.I. refuse to help me when I am being stalked and they know by whom. The F.B.I. refuses to pull the plug on 1107 E. Desert Inn Apts 3 and 9 observation of me in my room. The F.B.I. know I'm being stalked and they won't help me. This is obstruction of justice, denying me due process and equal protection.

*Id. Cf. Albanese v. Las Vegas Metro. Police Dep't*, 2:17-cv-01640-MMD-VCF, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1) ("Las Vegas Police Department 311 / 911 Heather 10183 and so many others are obstructing justice by saying I'm not being stalked June 13 at Desert Parkway Behavioral Hospital. 1107 E. Desert Inn Apts 3 and 9 are live streaming my image to Desert Parkway & June 12 to 1089 E. Desert Inn #7 when they stalked me. I call 311 / 911 and they act naive and act like F.B.I. C.I.A. & homeland security by saying they know no stalking is taking place.").

In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-01735-JCM-PAL, she alleges that LVMPD violated her equal protection and due process rights and obstructed justice by failing to respond to her 311/911 calls reporting stalking:

I'm being victimized all over again by 311/911 who treats me like the criminal I'm not for asking for help when 2 homeless males stalked me along my route June 23.... I call the police they WILL NOT RESPOND.... *Someone in the LVMPD informed on me to all the area drug dealers and homeless that I'm a SNITCH for the COPS and as I was panhandling, homeless and drug dealers were stalking me as a snitch for the cops.*

*Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1) (emphasis added).

In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-01832-KJD-PAL, she alleges that LVMPD sergeants have conspired to violate her equal protection rights by allowing people to stalk and harass her. *Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1). An LVMPD sergeant canceled another one of her calls and told her she is not credible or is lying about what she claims the neighbors are doing to her. *Id.* ("[T]hey're using Sgt. Johnson to try to upset me so I keep filing lawsuits."). The neighbors purportedly stalk and harass her because the police will not respond.

In *Albanese v. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*, 2:17-cv-01904-JCM-PAL, she alleges violations of her equal protection and due process rights, public corruption, obstruction of justice, and a police conspiracy because the police are allowing a man to stalk her:

So I'd like to sue the LVMPD for not stopping stalking from taking place when they know it's happening to me.... That repeat stalker knows I'm going to call the cops so he keeps stalking me. The police allow him to stalk me. The police defend



1 criminal behavior and say they are going to talk to people harassing me and so they  
 2 forget and leave in their vehicles. So I keep returning to the Federal Building. *So*  
*it's like a vicious circle. I keep being stalked (with police foreknowledge). I call the*  
*cops. The police keep defending Apts. 3 and 9 who harass me. I keep suing.*

3 *Id.*, Compl. (ECF No. 1-1) (emphasis added).


4 Here, the court finds that Albanese's complaint is frivolous and duplicative because it  
 5 merely repeats pending or previously litigated claims. These actions follow a distinct pattern,  
 6 which Albanese herself acknowledges. *Id.* Ms. Albanese believes that various persons stalk or  
 7 spy on her in her home and when she travels around Las Vegas. However, she alleges that federal  
 8 and local law enforcement officers refuse to help her or investigate and arrest her stalkers. She  
 9 asserts similar legal claims in most of her cases pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983: violations of her  
 10 due process, equal protection, and free speech rights, obstruction of justice, defamation, public  
 11 corruption, and conspiracy. Because this action is duplicative and frivolous dismissal is  
 12 appropriate.

13 Based on the foregoing,

14 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that:

- 15 1. Plaintiff Grace Albanese's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) be
- 16 **DENIED.**
- 17 2. Plaintiff's Complaint be **DISMISSED.**
- 18 3. The Clerk of the Court be instructed to close this case and enter judgment accordingly.

19 Dated this 27th day of July, 2017.

20   
 21 PEGGY A. LEEN  
 22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

### 23 **NOTICE**

24 This Report of Findings and Recommendation is submitted to the assigned district judge  
 25 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and is not immediately appealable to the Court of Appeals for  
 26 the Ninth Circuit. Any notice of appeal to the Ninth Circuit should not be filed until entry of the  
 27 district court's judgment. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(1). Pursuant to LR IB 3-2(a) of the Local Rules  
 28 of Practice, any party wishing to object to a magistrate judge's findings and recommendations of

1 shall file and serve *specific written objections*, together with points and authorities in support of  
2 those objections, within 14 days of the date of service. *See also* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R.  
3 Civ. P. 6, 72. The document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Report of  
4 Findings and Recommendation,” and it is subject to the page limitations found in LR 7-3(b). The  
5 parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may result in the district  
6 court’s acceptance of this Report of Findings and Recommendation without further review. *United*  
7 *States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). In addition, failure to file timely  
8 objections to any factual determinations by a magistrate judge may be considered a waiver of a  
9 party’s right to appellate review of the findings of fact in an order or judgment entered pursuant to  
10 the recommendation. *See Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153, 1156 (9th Cir. 1991); Fed. R. Civ. P.  
11 72.